WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Coal mining in existing blocks

2782. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of oal mine blocks in the country where coal mining is not being done at present;

(b) if so, the number of suh blocks by the end of December, 2002;

(c) the names of States where such blocks existed alongwith the number of such blocks in each State; and

(d) the estimated quantity of coal reserve in these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have identified 275 coal blocks to be retained by them to sustain the production level of 2006-07 for another thirty years. Out of this, mining operation has started in 13 blocks by the end of IX Plan *i.e.* 2001-02. Apart from these, 189 coal blocks termed as non-CIL blocks have also been identified for potential mining. It includes 121 blocks/sub-blocks identified for captive mining. Of the 121 captive blocks, 27 blocks stand allotted as on date. Mining has started in 4 blocks.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited had identified 147 coal blocks for mining, out of which coal mining has started in 69 blocks. 15 blocks have been closed/abandoned and there are 63 blocks where they have plans to take up coal mining in future. Apart from these, 7 coal blocks have also been identified by them for captive mining.

(a) and (d) State-wise distribution of blocks alongwith estimated coal reserves of Coal India Limited & Singareni Collieries Company Limited are given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State	Blocks identified to be retained by ' Coal India Limited	
A. CIL Blocks	No. of blocks	Estimated reserves (in Billion Tonnes)
West Bengal	20	6.49
Jharkhand	101	11.52
Madhya Pradesh	32	2.62
Chhattisgarh	43	6.51
Maharashtra	58	3.32
Orissa	21	7.86
Total CIL	275	38.32
B. SCCL Blocks		
Andhra Pradesh	147	7.94

(ii) Captive blocks identified by CIL and SCCL & other non-CIL blocks

State	Captive Blocks		Non-CIL blocks	
	No. of blocks/Sub-	Esimated Reserve blocks (in Billion Tonnes)	No. of blocks	Estimated reserve (in Billion Tonnes)
West Bengal	23	5.88		
Jharkhand	51	13.50	26	3.40
Madhya Pradesh	7	0.61	18	1.86
Chhattisgarh	20	4.17	10	1.86
Maharashtra	4	0.21	2	0.20
Orissa	16	3.25	12	6.99
Andhra Pradesh	7	0.27	—	—

Rehabilitation of ECL miners

2783. SHRI ABHAYKANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has decided to shed off 68,000 miners by shutting down operation in 64 mines;

(b) if so, the mines which are likely to be closed down and the reasons for taking such decision;